

HABAKKUK

QUESTIONS TO GOD

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- * Habakkuk means “One who Embraces”.
 - * We know little of Habakkuk beyond the two mentions of his name in this book where he identified himself as “Habakkuk the prophet” ([Habakkuk 1:1; 3:1](#)),
 - * Habakkuk also could have been a priest involved with the worship of God at the temple (based on the book’s final, psalm-like statement: “For the choir director, on my stringed instruments” ([Habakkuk 3:19](#))).
 - * Habakkuk’s prophecy is dated to around 605 BC, the time of King Jehoiakim and before Nebuchadnezzar first invaded Judah and took Daniel and others as captives to Babylon.
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- * **Chapters:** 3
 - * **Verses:** 56

BACKGROUND OF HABAKKUK

- * Habakkuk contains an extended dialogue between Habakkuk and God ([Habakkuk 1-2](#)).
- * The prophet initiated this conversation based on his distress about God's "inaction" in the world.
- * So much evil thrived, completely in the open, but God remained strangely silent.
- * Where was He? How long would He allow this mess to continue?
- * Instead of God speaking to His people through him, like other prophets, Habakkuk spoke to God and asked Him questions

Habakkuk asked God 2 Major Questions:

Question 1: Why He would allow the increasing evil and sin in Judah to go unpunished (Hab 1:2-4)

Question 2: How could He, a holy God, use the Babylonians, who were more wicked than the Jews, to punish the Jews (1:12-2:1)?

God's answer to the first question: Habakkuk 1:5-11

God's answer to the second question: Habakkuk 2:2-10

BACKGROUND OF HABAKKUK

- * The prophecy of coming judgment at the hands of the Babylonians should have brought repentance and revival, but it did not and evil prevailed in Judah.
- * Jehoiakim was a bad king and the prophet Jeremiah wrote of him, "your eyes and your heart are intent only upon your own dishonest gain, and on shedding innocent blood and on practicing oppression and extortion" (Jer. 22:17; cf. Hab. 1:2-4 and 2 Kings 23:34-24:5).

The best-known verse in this book is

Habakkuk 2:4,

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

- * He went from questioning God in chapter one to totally trusting God in chapter three. The circumstances remained the same.
- * Nothing had changed except the heart of the prophet who found rest in trusting God.
- * This significant verse is also quoted in Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38),
- * It is central to the doctrine of sanctification and growing in faith.

THE GREAT PSALM OF PRAISE

The great psalm of praise:

Habakkuk 3:17-19

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places"

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. Introduction, 1:1

II. Habakkuk's Problems, 1:2-2:20

- A. Problem #1: Why Does God Allow Wicked Practices to Continue in Judah? 1:2-4
- B. Answer #1, 1:5-11
- C. Problem #2: Why Will God Use Wicked People to Punish Judah? 1:12-2:1
- D. Answer #2, 2:2-20

III. Habakkuk's Praise, 3:1-19

- A. Praise for the Person of God, 3:1-3
- B. Praise for the Power of God, 3:4-7
- C. Praise for the Purpose of God, 3:8-16
- D. Praise Because of Faith in God, 3:17-19